



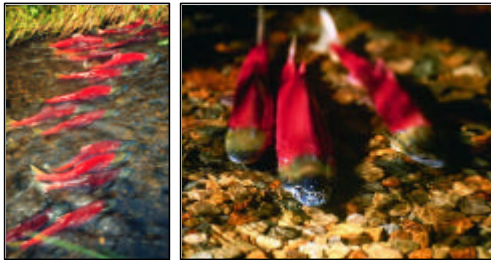
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conserving Biodiversity with Genetics

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

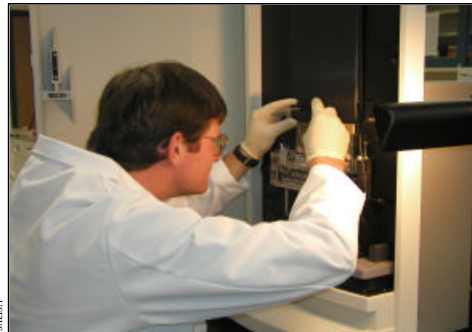


The use of modern genetic technology in the conservation of biodiversity defines the primary function of the Alaska Region's **Conservation Genetics Laboratory (CGL)**. The CGL was established in 1987 as the Service's first dedicated genetics facility, primarily to ensure conservation of Alaska's wild salmon and to sustain the fisheries and ecosystems that depend on salmon.



The focus of the lab has expanded over time to satisfy the needs of our partners and currently includes work on species from salmon to sea otters, from Russia to California.

Our staff works with biologists, managers, and a variety of partners inside and outside the Service to design and conduct genetic research. We provide genetic expertise in Alaska, to its 16 National Wildlife Refuges, and other Service Regions.



Our research provides information on the genetic characteristics of populations required for conserving biodiversity. This information is critical for identifying individual populations, determining how they are related, and grouping them into appropriate management units.

We are applying the results of our research to the management of important subsistence, commercial and recreational fisheries. One example of this work is determining the origin of salmon harvested in mixed-stock fisheries in the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. This work provides managers with information on patterns of salmon migration, allowing regulation of fisheries to protect depleted populations while allowing the harvest of healthy ones.



The demand for genetic information to aid conservation efforts for the Nation's fish and wildlife resources will continue to increase in the foreseeable future.